



Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 1338.5

March 9, 1998

Certified Current as of November 21, 2003

ASD(FMP)

SUBJECT: Armed Forces Clothing Monetary Allowance Policy

- References: (a) DoD Directive 1338.5, "Armed Forces Clothing Monetary Allowance Policy," August 13, 1980 (hereby canceled)
- (b) Title 37, United States Code
 - (c) Executive Order 10113, "Delegating the Authority of the President to Prescribe Clothing Allowances, and Cash Allowances in Lieu Thereof, for Enlisted Men in the Armed Forces," February 24, 1950
 - (d) [DoD Instruction 1338.18](#), "Armed Forces Clothing Monetary Allowance Procedures," January 7, 1998

1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive reissues reference (a) to reflect current policy on the Armed Forces clothing monetary allowances.

2. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Military Departments. The term "Military Services," as used herein, refers to the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Marine Corps.

3. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

3.1. Under Section 418 of reference (b) and reference (c), the Secretary of Defense, or the Secretary's designee, may prescribe the quantity and kind of clothing to be furnished annually to an enlisted member of the Military Services, and may prescribe the amount of cash allowance to be paid to a member if clothing is not so furnished.

3.2. A uniform system of providing individual clothing be maintained for enlisted personnel of the DoD Components. Quantities and items of individual clothing to be furnished shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned, or the Secretary's designee.

3.3. An initial clothing allowance for uniform clothing issue shall be furnished each enlistee upon first enlistment into the Service. This shall be the actual required uniform items, or a cash allowance for required items not issued.

3.4. A basic cash clothing replacement allowance for uniform clothing shall be paid to each enlisted person for the replacement of required items in the initial issue, as needed, after the first 6 months of service through the remainder of the first 3 years of continuous active duty. The basic cash clothing replacement allowance is 70 percent of the standard cash clothing replacement allowance.

3.5. A standard cash clothing replacement allowance for uniform clothing shall be paid to each enlistee after 3 years of active duty.

3.6. The cash replacement allowances for uniform items are intended to provide funds to enlisted members for the replacement of military-unique items required for wear by the respective Secretary of the Military Department. The allowances are based on an estimated wear life of issued military-unique items. They are not intended to cover the cost of repair, dry cleaning, or laundering of clothing.

3.7. The basic and standard replacement allowances shall be based on current Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) prices and the estimated useful wear life of required clothing. Items not uniquely military, and exercise items issued primarily for use during initial training, shall be excluded from the replacement allowance computations. Items not uniquely military represent costs that would be incurred whether or not enlisted members were required to wear a military uniform, such as non-military-unique underwear and towels.

3.8. Enlisted personnel, upon assignment to a tour of duty or attainment of a status that requires the wearing of individual uniform clothing (other than special dress uniforms) different from uniforms required for most enlisted personnel of the same Service, may be authorized a special initial clothing allowance. It shall be authorized only once during any period of continuous active duty.

3.9. Enlisted personnel may be authorized a supplementary clothing allowance for uniform items when they are assigned to duty for which they are required to have, for the performance of such duty, additional quantities or special items of individual uniform clothing not normally required for most enlisted personnel in the same Service. The supplementary clothing allowance is in addition to any other clothing allowance the enlisted member may be authorized.

3.10. Enlisted personnel, regardless of where assigned, and officers assigned to a permanent duty station outside the United States, under 37 U.S.C. 419 (reference (b)), who are required by competent authority to wear civilian clothing for all or a substantial period of time in the performance of official duty, may be paid a cash allowance for civilian clothing in the amount the Secretary determines under DoD Instruction 1338.18 (reference (d)). Such clothing allowance is in addition to any uniform allowance to which the Service member is otherwise entitled under reference (b).

3.11. Special purpose individual clothing required for support of personnel in the accomplishment of assigned duties shall be carried as organizational issue. Organizational clothing includes special distinctive uniforms such as those required for Service bands. These items are furnished under the issue-in-kind system. Therefore, no monetary credits or payments are provided to such individuals for obtaining or replacing these items.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall:

4.1.1. Serve as the focal point on all matters concerning clothing monetary allowances for the DoD Components.

4.1.2. Issue and maintain DoD Instruction 1338.18 (reference (d)) that provides procedures whereby enlisted personnel of the DoD Components are furnished an initial issue of individual uniform clothing adequate for the performance of their assigned duties, and a monetary allowance for the replacement of the initial issue.

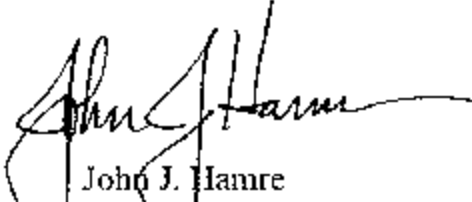
4.1.3. Annually, not later than October 1, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) (USD(C)), prescribe initial allowances against which initial issues are debited and, thereafter, a cash replacement allowance for initial clothing replacement.

4.2. The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology shall ensure that the Director, DLA, shall establish prices for individual items of clothing prescribed for wear by the Secretaries of the Military Departments. By June 1 of each year, DLA shall provide a firm cost of clothing items to be issued in the next fiscal year to the Offices of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy (ASD(FMP)) and USD(C), and the Secretaries of the Military Departments. Under normal circumstances, no price changes should occur during the fiscal year to which the clothing allowances pertain.

4.3. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall provide proposed annual changes to their clothing allowances to the ASD(FMP) by July 1 before the beginning of the next fiscal year, based on the DLA June 1 prices of items the Services have authorized in their next fiscal year clothing bag.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective April 1, 1998.



John J. Hamre
Deputy Secretary of Defense